

THE
CENTENARY OF
THE WISTAR PARTY

AN HISTORICAL ADDRESS

BY

HAMPTON L. CARSON, Esq.

DELIVERED BY APPOINTMENT IN THE HALL OF THE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, MAY 4TH, 1918

WITH THE

ROLL OF MEMBERS

1818-1918

PHILADELPHIA

PRINTED FOR THE WISTAR ASSOCIATION
1918

WISTAIR



PARTY

*The Wistair Association requests the
 pleasure of
 company
 on Saturday evening, May 4th at nine o'clock
 at 1300 Locust Street*

Charles C. Harrison	J. C. Roseingarten	John F. Lewis	Alba B. Johnson
L. Minis Hays	James C. Wilson	R. A. F. Prouse, Jr.	Samuel Rea
William W. Frazier	Hampden L. Cutson	Edwin Swift Balch	William H. Prouse
John Cuchwader	Robert G. Le Conte	William W. Keen	Charles B. Prouse
T. De Witt Cuyler	Charlemagne Tower	Arthur H. Lea	Thomas Willing Balch
C. Hartman Kahn	H. La Pierre-Jayne	Russell Dunne	Eli Kirk Price

*The favor of an early answer is requested to the Dean
 Dr. L. Minis Hays
 206 South 24th Street Philadelphia*

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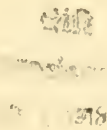
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PRESS OF
THE NEW ERA PRINTING COMPANY
LANCASTER, PA.



ADDRESS.

FELLOW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

This evening's gathering commemorates the Centenary of the Wistar Party, a purely voluntary association of twenty-four gentlemen, without a charter, without a club house, without even a club room or club possessions, but held together by the mysterious and potent charm of a distinguished name, and a fixed rule that eligibility to membership requires an existing membership in The American Philosophical Society. With no purpose save that of genial hospitality to citizen and stranger, depending for its expression upon purely private household entertainment, extended in turn by a single host, subject to the simplest rules, the Association has exerted a quiet but definite influence upon the intellectual and social life of Philadelphia. It has become an institution without being an institute. Its charm is as subtle as the fragrance of the Wisteria,

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that glorious climbing shrub of our gardens, which, though an exotic, was named by Nuttall, the eminent English botanical explorer, in his *Genera of North American Plants*, in honor of our patron saint, but with inattention to the spelling of his name.

It requires but a simple analysis to explain the tie which binds the Wistar Party to The American Philosophical Society. That Society, whose reputation among the learned is world-wide, whose treasures are priceless, whose annual meetings are significant events in scientific, literary, and professional circles, was the result of the union in 1769 of Franklin's Junto (which dated back to 1727 and was subsequently known as The American Society Held at Philadelphia for Promoting Useful Knowledge), with The American Philosophical Society which had been founded by Franklin in 1743. Its first President was Franklin, its second, the foremost of American astronomers, David Rittenhouse, and its third was Thomas Jefferson, who was much given to scientific pursuits. Jefferson held the presidency of the Society during a period of eighteen years, but as he ceased to be a frequent visitor to

Philadelphia, after the removal of the Government to Washington, the active duties devolved upon Dr. Caspar Wistar, who had been chosen a Curator of the Society in 1792, and in 1795 a Vice-President.

Upon Mr. Jefferson's resignation in 1815, Dr. Wistar became his successor in an office which he had long filled *de facto*. At that time, and for many antecedent years, he was the Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, a position of professional primacy due to the circumstance that the Medical Department of the University was at that time the only medical school in the country, and *the rendezvous* for students. Wistar found himself one of a faculty adorned by the distinguished names of John Morgan, Benjamin Rush, and William Shippen, and his own renown as a surgeon was enhanced by his connection with the University of Edinburgh, of which he was a graduate, under the guidance of the illustrious Cullen.

Under the vice-presidency and presidency of Dr. Wistar The American Philosophical Society became the rallying point of the learned world. Not only did the American *illuminati* assemble there, but

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Baron von Humboldt, the great German scientist and traveller; his colleague, M. Aimé Bonpland, the well-known French naturalist and explorer; M. Francois André Michaux, the French botanist; M. du Pont de Nemours, the French political economist; and the famous and witty Abbé Correa de Serra, the Minister from Portugal, there mingled with our botanists, naturalists, chemists, surgeons, doctors, jurists and statesmen.

William Tilghman, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, who was Dr. Wistar's eulogist, and his successor as President of The American Philosophical Society, tells us that Dr. Wistar "was assiduous in attending committees. He was one of the first and most strenuous supporters of the Historical and Literary Committee, instituted by the Society about two years ago (1816). With what ardour did he excite them to industry, in collecting, ere too late, the fleeting materials of American history? The meetings of this Committee he regularly attended. It was their custom, after the business of the evening was concluded, to enter into an unrestrained conversation on literary subjects. There, without intending it,

our lamented friend would insensibly take the lead; and so interesting were his anecdotes, and so just his remarks, that drawing close to the dying embers, we often forgot the lapse of time, until warned by the unwelcome clock, that we had entered on another day."

Such were Doctor Wistar's relations to The American Philosophical Society.

I turn now to his personal characteristics. Hospitable by nature, he displayed a positive genius as a host, which made him the object of affectionate homage by his friends who loved to share at his own fireside his hours of leisure. This was all the easier because the Hall of The American Philosophical Society, then but recently erected on the eastern edge of the State House Yard at Fifth and Chestnut Streets, stood but three blocks away from Wistar's house with its ample vine-embowered and tree-shaded garden at Fourth and Prune (now Locust) Streets. Chief Justice Tilghman, in the Eulogium, from which I have already quoted, said: "His house was open to men of learning, both citizens and strangers; and there is no doubt that at the

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weekly meetings, which took place under his hospitable roof, were originated many plans for the advancement of science, which were afterwards carried into happy effect." Professor David Hosack of New York, in an address (26th January, 1818) delivered before the students of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of the State of New York, said: "As a literary character, few men held a more elevated rank, in the estimation of all to whom he was known, than Dr. Wistar. Besides these branches of science more immediately connected with the medical profession, as far as his duties as a practitioner permitted, he cultivated, with great industry and success, almost every department of literature. His house was the weekly resort of the literati of the City of Philadelphia, and at his hospitable board the learned stranger from every part of the world, of every tongue and nation, received a cordial welcome. His urbanity, his pleasing and instructive conversation, his peculiar talent in discerning and displaying the characteristic merits and acquirements of those with whom he conversed, will be remembered with pleasure by all

who have ever enjoyed his society and conversation." Dr. Charles Caldwell, Professor of Natural History in the University of Pennsylvania, in addressing The Philadelphia Medical Society (February 21, 1818) said: "His dwelling was, at all times, the seat of hospitality; and during the winter, the weekly resort of his literary friends, in common with strangers of distinction who visited the city. The company met, without ceremony, on a stated evening, where in the midst of a succession of suitable refreshments, the time passed away, oftentimes until a late hour, in agreeable, varied, and instructive discourse. This hospitable and conciliating practice contributed not a little to multiply and strengthen those attachments to his person, which, to use a technical, though not unapt, expression, rendered him, at length, a *sensorium commune* to a very large and increasing circle."

I present two interesting cotemporaneous proofs of the character of Dr. Wistar's guests. I show you an original letter, entirely in his own handwriting, addressed to B. R. Morgan, Esq., a distinguished member of the Philadelphia Bar. It reads:

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Dear Sir:

Baron Humboldt [sic] has returned from Washington and engaged to spend the evening with us. If you are disengaged I will be very happy to see you, and am with great esteem

Your friend and servant

C. WISTAR, JUN^r.

Thursday

June 21st, 1804.

I show you another original letter.

My Dear Sir:

Captain Riley whose travels are so well known to you is here, on his way to Washington, and takes his departure to morrow. I saw him for the first time this morning & engaged him to sup with me. I expect him at 8 this evening & will be very glad to see you also.

With great regard

I am very truly

yours

C. WISTAR

Monday

Jan^y. 12, 1818

J. Vaughan Esqr.

As this letter is dated January 12, 1818, and Dr. Wistar died ten days later, after eight days of illness, it is probable that this is the last letter of its kind that he ever wrote.

It is regrettable that we have no reports of the conversations of these brilliant and learned gatherings. That Dr. Wistar himself excelled in the art of drawing others out, and in contributing his share to the general talk is well attested, but that he had humor in correspondence is amply proved by his letter to Nicholas Biddle, dated April 16, 1813: "Two of your friends have led you into a scrape—they proposed you as a member of the Philosophical Society and you were elected last evening. The Society takes into consideration the situation of your family and therefore for the present year will only require you to discover the means of producing perpetual motion—but by the birth of your second child, they expect you to produce the Philosopher's Stone." (Original letter in the possession of Edward Biddle, Esq., a grandson.)

In the same year the Abbé Correa de Serra (September 27, 1813), writing to Dr. Wistar, from Boston, significantly said: "The best thing I can do, after what has happened since we parted, is to go back to my dear Philadelphia, and pass my time in the enjoyment of company such as yours. . . .

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There is no necessity, nor there will be so soon very likely, of my going to Europe, and looking on the globe I find that no spot except Paris is more to my taste than your friendly city, and you must take to yourself a good part of its fitness to my taste." (Ms. Vol. of Wistar Correspondence in Am. Philos. Soc.) The simplicity of these words, so free from the exaggerated compliments of foreigners, is the best assurance of their sincerity.

But while we have no direct testimony from an ear witness of the actual talk in Dr. Wistar's drawing room, there is full testimony, and that too from the unimpeachable source of Boston, of the character of Philadelphia society in those days. John Adams, writing to his wife, as far back as 1776, observed: "Particular gentlemen here, who have improved upon their education by travel, shine; but in general, old Massachusetts outshines her younger sisters. Still in several particulars they have more wit than we. They have Societies, the Philosophical Society particularly, which excites a scientific emulation, and propagates their fame. If ever I get through this scene of politics and of war, . . .

a philosophical society shall be established at Boston, if I have wit and address enough to accomplish it, sometime or other." ("Letters of John Adams to his Wife," Vol. 1, page 145.) This was truly a concession, if not a tribute, but it is from another Bostonian, writing of Philadelphia society in the hey-day of Dr. Wistar's fame, that we derive the strongest sidelight. That happy and useful man of letters, George Ticknor, the accomplished author of a history of Spanish literature, and a professor at Harvard, in some charming autobiographical notes, tells us of a visit he paid to Philadelphia in January, 1815. He says that "John Vaughan, the Secretary of the Philosophical Society took charge of me, and made me acquainted with every one whom I could desire to know. . . . I dined with a large party at Mr. David Parish's, and, for the first time in my life, saw a full service of silver plate, for twenty persons, with all the accompaniments of elegance and luxury to correspond, and a well trained body of servants in full livery. But—what was of more interest to me—John Randolph was one of the guests. . . . I was a good

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deal at Mr. Hopkinson's, who was distinguished for the union of wit, sense, culture, and attractive manner. . . . His house was one of the most agreeable in Philadelphia, for Mrs. Hopkinson was a lady of much cultivation and knowledge of the world. At their table I met one day a brilliant party of eleven or twelve gentlemen. Amongst them were Mr. Randolph, the Abbé Correa, Dr. Chapman and Mr. Parish. It was an elegant dinner, and the conversation was no doubt worthy of such guests; but one incident has overshadowed the rest of the scene. The Abbé Correa—who was one of the most remarkable men of the time, for various learning, acuteness, and wit, and for elegant, suave manners—had just returned from a visit to Mr. Jefferson, whom he much liked, and, in giving some account of his journey, which on the whole had been agreeable, he mentioned that he had been surprised at not finding more gentlemen living on their plantations in elegant luxury, as he had expected. It was quietly said, but Randolph could never endure the slightest disparagement of Virginia, if ever so just, and immediately said, with

some sharpness, 'Perhaps, Mr. Correa, your acquaintance was not so much with that class of persons.' Correa, who was as amiable as he was polite, answered very quietly, 'Perhaps not; the next time I will go down upon the Roanoke, and I will visit Mr. Randolph and his friends.' Mr. Randolph, who was one of the bitterest of men, was not appeased by this intended compliment, and said, in the sharpest tones of his high-pitched, disagreeable voice, 'In *my* part of the country, *gentlemen* commonly wait to be *invited* before they make visits.' Correa's equanimity was a little disturbed; his face flushed. He looked slowly round the table till every eye was upon him, and then replied, in a quiet, level tone of voice,—'Said I not *well* of the *gentlemen* of Virginia?'"

While you have the ready and self-possessed Correa in mind, let me exhibit to you the original Ms. of an obituary notice (Note Nécrologique) of Dr. Wistar written by his devoted Portuguese admirer, in April, 1818.

Such then was the character of The Philosophical Society, such was the character of Dr. Wistar, and

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such was the character of his guests. With the death of Dr. Wistar his delightful parties ended. It is now in order to examine the third link in the chain which binds the Society and the Wistar Party to each other. Mr. Job R. Tyson, who, in 1842, wrote a brief sketch of the Wistar Party, says: "To call Dr. Caspar Wistar the founder of an Association which was not formed until after his death, has the appearance of a solecism. It would perhaps be more proper to say that it was owing to his social spirit and the example of his unpretending but liberal hospitality, that a kindred feeling was awakened which led to its formation."

Mr. Tyson's conjecture obtains interesting confirmation in a letter written by John Vaughan, the Secretary of The Philosophical Society, to Thomas Jefferson within a month after Dr. Wistar's death, in which he says: "We shall try to keep up the Saturday evening meetings. We proposed the plan to Mr. Tilghman, Rawle, N. Biddle, Du Ponceau, R. M. Patterson and myself, and to endeavor to see strangers of merit passing through. We shall want the attractive magnet, but we shall derive pleasure

from the attempt, and the recollection of the friend who established them, and gave them such interest." ("Mass. Hist. Coll.," 7th ser., Vol. I, p. 267.) The effort proved a success, and in the autumn of 1818, Chief Justice Tilghman, Dr. Robert M. Patterson, a pupil in chemistry of Sir Humphrey Davy, Peter S. Du Ponceau, the omniscient and omnipresent master of Indian dialects and of jurisprudence, and John Vaughan of those first addressed, and Reuben Haines, a votary of science, Robert Walsh, Jr., a journalist, Zaccheus Collins, a naturalist, and Dr. Thomas C. James, the leading practitioner and teacher of obstetrics, became the founders of the Wistar Party. These gentlemen agreed each to give three parties every year during the season. Within eight years their numbers increased gradually to twenty-four, the present number, and each gave in a prescribed order of succession an entertainment during the season. This is the present practice. The sumptuary code adopted enjoined simplicity if not frugality of entertainment. This also is in accord with present practice.

Among the most notable names upon the rolls ap-

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pear those of Dr. Robert Hare, the renowned inventor of the oxy-hydrogen blowpipe; Joseph Hopkinson, the author of "Hail Columbia," and for many years United States District Judge; Nathaniel Chapman, wit as well as physician; Mathew Carey, the interesting Irish exile; Nicholas Biddle, the President of the United States Bank at the time of Jackson's war upon the Bank; Horace Binney, and John Sergeant. The man, however, upon whom the Association chiefly relied for its success was John Vaughan, the philanthropist, whose breakfasts in his bachelor quarters in the building of The Philosophical Society were the focal point of memorable mornings. "From 1818 to his demise in 1842, he assumed the labour of a general charge over the concerns of the Association, particularly of calling the annual meetings, making out the annual lists, distributing from week to week the cards of invitation, and attending with unremitting assiduity to various minor details. The Association is largely indebted to him for his attention to strangers, and for a fond and steady devotion to its interests and repute." (Mr. Tyson's tribute.) The

Rev. William H. Furness, of whose congregation Mr. Vaughan was a member, declared: "‘He was given to hospitality.’ In this respect he gave a character to our City, and in the minds of hosts of strangers from all parts of the country and from abroad, the name of Mr. Vaughan represented the City as faithfully as its own name ‘Brotherly Love.’ He took pleasure in bringing such persons together as, by similarity of tastes or pursuits, would find peculiar satisfaction in one another’s company." Dr. Furness recalls among the guests of that time, John Quincy Adams, Dr. Channing, the famous pulpit orator, and Albert Gallatin. ("The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians, Now Deceased," Simpson.)

The fame of the Wistar Party was by this time far-spread. The Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach in his "Travels Through North America During the Years 1825-6" wrote: "At Mr. Walsh’s I found a numerous assemblage, mostly of scientific and literary gentlemen. This assembly is called a Wistar Party. It is a small, learned circle which owes its existence to a Quaker physician, Dr. Wistar,

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who assembled all the literati and public characters of Philadelphia at his house every Saturday evening, where all well recommended foreigners were introduced. After his death the society was continued by his friends with this difference, that they now assemble alternately at the houses of the members. The conversation generally relates to literary and scientific topics." Captain Basil Hall in his "Travels in North America in 1827-28" says: "I shall never forget those agreeable and instructive Wistar Parties in Philadelphia." They are "meetings well contrived and maintained with much spirit." In 1833, Captain Hamilton, in his "Men and Manners in America," wrote: "I passed an hour or two very agreeably at one of a series of meetings, which are called Wistar Parties. . . . Their effect and influence on society must be very salutary. These parties bring together men of different classes and pursuits and promote the free interchange of opinion, always useful for the correction of prejudice. Such intercourse, too, prevents the narrowness of thought and exaggerated estimate of the value of our own peculiar acquirements,

which devotion to one exclusive object is apt to engender in those who do not mix freely with the world. . . . Philosophers eat like other men, and the precaution of an excellent supper is by no means found to be superfluous. It acts, too, as a gentle emollient in the acrimony of debate. No man can say a harsh thing with his mouth full of turkey and disputants forget their differences in unity of enjoyment." Captain Hamilton makes another observation which is a complete refutation of the ignorant and baseless charge made by the satirical Robert Waln and repeated in kind by the jealous and resentful James Gordon Bennett at a later day. Both of these gentlemen had charged that the Wistar Party was composed of exclusive aristocrats, who would tolerate the companionship of none but their own circle. Captain Hamilton declares: "At these parties I met several ingenious men of a class something below that of ordinary members. When an operative mechanic attracts notice by his zeal for improvement in any branch of science, he is almost uniformly invited to the Wistar meetings. The advantage of this policy is obviously very great. A

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modest and deserving man is brought into notice. His errors are corrected, his ardor is stimulated, his taste improved, a healthy connection is kept up between the different classes of society, and the feeling of mental sympathy is duly cherished. During my stay in Philadelphia I was present at several of these Wistar parties and always returned from them with increased conviction of their beneficial tendency." Twenty years later, William Makepeace Thackeray, in characteristically whimsical vein, wrote to his friend William B. Reed, later Attorney-General of Pennsylvania, alluding to the sudden death of Mr. William Peter, the British Consul, and to a letter he had received from Mrs. Peter some time before: "Mrs. Peter wrote, saying he was ill with influenza; he was in bed with his last illness, and there were to be no more Whister parties for him. Will Whister himself, hospitable pig-tailed shade, welcome him to Hades? And will they sit down—no, stand up—to a ghostly supper, devouring the *ἰφθιμους ψυχας* of oysters and all sorts of birds?" (Reed's "Haud Immemor.")

It may be of interest, in passing, to note that the

engraved card of invitation "with the benevolent profile of Dr. Wistar so familiar to all our members," as the late Henry Charles Lea described it, was adopted in 1835 and has since then been uniformly used.

Following the death of Mr. Vaughan, in 1842 a more definite organization than had theretofore prevailed was effected. On the call of the venerable Peter S. Du Ponceau, one of the original members, and in the form presented by United States District Judge John K. Kane, a written Constitution, containing but six brief articles, and printed upon two thirds of a single page, was adopted. The executive officer was called the Dean, and members were to be unanimously chosen from the rolls of the Philosophical Society. Members failing to attend the annual meetings and omitting to declare their intention to continue might be considered to have resigned.

Mr. Vaughan's successor as Dean was Isaac Lea, who had married the daughter of Mathew Carey, and conducted a large publishing business, still in the hands of his descendants, and who was, at the

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time, particularly distinguished for his knowledge of conchology and later was President of the Academy of Natural Sciences. He filled the office by annual re-elections until the suspension of the Association in 1861, except during a prolonged absence abroad, when in 1852-3 he was replaced by Mr. J. J. Vander Kemp, and in 1853-4 by Mr. Job R. Tyson. It was due to Mr. Lea's methodical habits that a Minute Book was introduced, and the volume is still in use as a record of the election of members and of the action taken at the annual meetings.

During this *second* period in the life of the Wistar Party the most notable among its members were Dr. Nathaniel Chapman, Isaac Lea, Judge Kane, William M. Meredith, President Taylor's Secretary of the Treasury, Dr. George B. Wood of the chair of Materia Medica in the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Isaac Hays, the accomplished Editor of Hays's Medical Journal, the renowned scientist, especially distinguished for his labors in the Coast Survey, Alexander Dallas Bache, and the political economist, Henry C. Carey. The dark days of the Civil War, so full of overwhelming anxiety

and of passion, discouraged social enjoyments, and on motion of Professor Henry Coppée, of the chair of literature in the University of Pennsylvania, in September, 1861, it was "*Resolved*, That owing to the present unhappy condition of the country, the Wistar Parties be postponed during this season." Similar action was had in 1862 and 1863. Many members resigned, others died. In 1865, the only members present at the annual meeting were Dr. Hays and Mr. Isaac Lea; in 1866, only Dr. George W. Norris and Mr. Lea. At last, the only surviving members were Mr. Moncure Robinson and Mr. Lea, and even the annual meetings were discontinued.

Many shortlived efforts to maintain the old social life were attempted through the Union Club, the parent of the Union League; the Saturday Club, which, lacking restrictions upon the character of entertainments, led to an undesirable sumptuousness; and the Fortnightly Club, which, though resembling the old Wistar Party in moderation of the table, lacked the tie of membership in The Philosophical Society.

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Finally, in 1886, the venerable Moncure Robinson and Isaac Lea, the only surviving members, both far advanced in years and confined to their homes, revived the Wistar Party by concurrent written action electing to membership Dr. Caspar Wister, William Sellers, Horace Howard Furness, the Hon. Craig Biddle, Dr. William Pepper, Professor Fairman Rogers, Henry Charles Lea and Dr. Francis W. Lewis. These gentlemen met in December, 1886, and reorganized. To complete their membership they rescinded the rule as to membership in The Philosophical Society, and elected their colleagues of the Fortnightly Club, which then went out of existence. They also increased the official staff by adding an Executive Committee of three to the office of Dean. This is the present establishment. The Dean chosen was the greatest of our scholars and philosophic historians, Henry Charles Lea. At an adjourned meeting in March, 1898, the eligibility rule as to membership in The Philosophical Society was restored, and is still in force.

In speaking of this reorganization, which marked the *third* and present period of the Wistar

Party, Mr. Lea has written: "Thus adapted to the social needs of the present day the reorganized Wistar Party feels the assurance that it worthily upholds the traditions which it has inherited and that a strict adherence to the simplicity prescribed in the rules and solicitude in gathering at its receptions all that is best in the intellectual activity of Philadelphia, will enable its members to hand down to their successors in the long future an institution which, in its modest way, has made a contribution not wholly without significance to the fair repute which the city of its birth so deservedly enjoys."

It remains but to add that Mr. Lea continued most diligently to fulfill the expectations of his friends. His zeal to the last was unabated. "Age did not wither nor custom stale his infinite variety" of intellectual accomplishments. For twenty-three years he trod the paths worn by the footsteps of his predecessors. For ninety years the Wistar Party had but three Deans. Such length of tenure, and such continuity of service were favorable to the growth of traditions and of customs which are now venerable and venerated, and which it is hoped will remain inviolable.

The *third* period of our existence has been marked by the old brilliancy of membership and guests. We have seen that ornament of scholarship and of incomparable literary gifts, Horace Howard Furness, in the midst of his Shakespeareana; we have seen Mr. Lea surrounded by the rarest of libraries whispering from its shelves the mysteries of the Middle Ages and the most recondite learning; we have listened to the epigrams of Judge Biddle who concisely declared that "Saturday night was a gentleman's night out" and that "In America a man's family portraits were as often acquired by purchase as by descent." We have listened to Dr. Persifor Frazer explaining to Chief Justice Mitchell that the Biblical expression "when the salt hath lost its savor" necessarily implied that in the days of old there was a gang grocer who mixed his salt with marble dust; we have heard the sturdy Isaac J. Wistar tell of the early lawlessness in California which he had witnessed as a member of the Vigilance Committees of '49 and '50; we have relished the pungent sarcasm of Henry C. Chapman, who inherited the traits of his grandfather; we have felt

the indomitable force of that giant of trans-continental railway construction, Alexander J. Cassatt; and we have not ceased to miss the keen and judicious criticisms of current events by that man of stately figure and commanding presence, Samuel Dickson, or by the warm-hearted, hard-headed, sagacious man of affairs, George F. Baer, who, after winning renown at the bar, became the successful president of the Reading Railroad Company. We have seen Stanley, the daring explorer of the Dark Continent, conversing with Mark Twain, and Frederick D. Stone, the accomplished Librarian of the Historical Society, exchanging views of George Bancroft's latest revision with James Russell Lowell, and we have listened to Nansen and Melville, the conquerors of ice packs in the North, discussing their adventures with Benjamin Harris Brewster and Wayne MacVeagh, Attorneys-General of the United States. We recall too that when our former member—the now venerable George F. Edmunds, who greets us on this occasion from Pasadena—so distinguished as a Senator of the United States from Vermont—first came to Philadelphia, he was much

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lionized and many sought introductions. Among these was a "vehemently vocal" man, as Hall Caine would have called him, who in deep tones exclaimed: "Ah, Senator Edmunds—very happy to meet you, Sir; very happy to meet you. I have always regarded you as the model Senator—the model Senator, Sir." "Yes," said Mr. Edmunds, looking down with a twinkling eye from his towering height, "a model is usually a small representation of a very big thing."

Following the death of Mr. Lea in 1909, Mr. Samuel Dickson, for twelve years the Chancellor of the Law Association of Philadelphia, was chosen Dean. He, too, was a vigilant guardian of our rules, but death claimed him in 1915. The present Dean, Dr. I. Minis Hays, succeeded him. We all know how dear to his heart are the days of the past, and upon his unswerving loyalty we base our confidence in the future.

The names of the present members are upon the card of invitation for this evening. They are the hosts of this occasion, and in their names I now bid our guests to partake of a Wistar Party Supper in strict accordance with the rules.

ROLL OF THE WISTAR PARTY

1818-1918

MEMBERS

D. Hayes Agnew	1887-1890
Richard L. Ashhurst	1894-1911
Alexander Dallas Bache	1839-1844
Franklin Bache	1844-1864
George F. Baer	1903-1914
Edwin Swift Balch	1910
Thomas Willing Balch	1916
Charles F. Beck	1856-1859
John Bell	1841-1850
A. Sydney Biddle	1888-1891
Arthur Biddle	1893-1897
Clement C. Biddle	1824-1839
Craig Biddle	1886-1908
Nicholas Biddle	1821-1842
Thomas Biddle	1828-1834, 1836-1838, 1843-1849
Horace Binney	1824-1826
George Tucker Bispham	1886-1906
Edward S. Buckley	1891-1904

John Cadwalader	1893
Richard M. Cadwalader	1887-1896
Thomas Cadwalader	1828-1829
Henry C. Carey	1834-1842, 1849-1879
Mathew Carey	1821-1838
Henry Carleton	1860-1863
Hampton L. Carson	1896-1902, 1905
Alexander J. Cassatt	1902-1906
Henry C. Chapman	1898-1900
Nathaniel Chapman	1821-1849
Langdon Cheves	1821-1826
Edward H. Coates	1891-1894
Edward Coles	1844-1865
Edward Coles (Jr.)	1900-1906
Zaccheus Collins	1818-1831
Henry Coppée	1859-1865
John C. Cresson	1855-1861
T. DeWitt Cuyler	1895
Jacob M. DaCosta	1888-1898
Charles E. Dana	1902-1904
William P. Dewees	1821-1834
Samuel Dickson	1887-1915
Samuel Henry Dickson	1860-1872
William H. Dillingham	1844-1847
Russell Duane	1914
James Dundas	1856-1865
Robley Dunglison	1839-1841, 1842-1866

Thomas Dunlap	1839-1864
Nathan Dunn	1836-1840
Peter S. Du Ponceau	1818-1842
Alfred Langdon Elwyn	1844-1852, 1854-1855
George F. Edmunds	1897-1902
George Harrison Fisher	1887-1896
Joshua Francis Fisher.....	1834-1841, 1851-1873
John F. Frazer	1844-1854
Persifor Frazer	1887-1909
William W. Frazier	1889
Horace Howard Furness	1886-1893
William H. Furness	1915
William Gibson	1826-1841
Samuel D. Gross	1860-1884
Reuben Haines	1818- ?
Robert Hare	1819-1858
Thomas Harris	1828-1834, 1835-1836, 1838-1840
William Harris	1839-1840
Charles C. Harrison	1886
Isaac Hays	1844-1879
I. Minis Hays	1887
Morton P. Henry	1886-1893
Hugh L. Hodge	1837-1862
Joseph Hopkinson	1821-1835
William E. Horner	1828-1839, 1840-1844, 1846-1853

32 THE ROLL OF THE WISTAR PARTY

Charles J. Ingersoll	1828-1829
Joseph R. Ingersoll	1827-1829, 1850-1854
Samuel Jackson	1841-1844
Thomas C. James	1818-1826, 1828-1830
Henry LaBarre Jayne	1909
Horace Jayne	1897-1909
Alba B. Johnson	1914
John K. Kane	1828-1858
William W. Keen	1910
C. Hartman Kuhn	1897
René LaRoche	1829-1836
Arthur H. Lea	1912
Henry Charles Lea	1886-1909
Isaac Lea	1828-1886
Robert G. LeConte	1907
James B. Leonard	1898-1899
Francis W. Lewis	1886-1902
John Frederick Lewis	1909
J. Dundas Lippincott	1886-1905
George A. McCall	1856-1859
William McIlvaine	1828-1838
Thomas McKean	1886-1897
Richard C. McMurtrie	1886-1894
Charles D. Meigs	1829-1839, 1843-1845, 1849-1854

William Meredith	1821-1839
William M. Meredith	1841-1849, 1850-1857
Samuel V. Merrick	1835-1843, 1855-1870
E. Coppée Mitchell	1886-1887
John K. Mitchell	1828-1842
Israel Wistar Morris	1894-1909
John T. Morris	1911-1915
Thomas D. Mütter	1852-1856
John S. Newbold	1886-1887
George W. Norris	1852-1875
William F. Norris	1886-1895
Joseph Pancoast	1855-1882
Robert M. Patterson	1818-1828, 1835-1853
J. Rodman Paul	1905-1914
Charles B. Penrose	1915
R. A. F. Penrose, Jr.	1909
George Wharton Pepper	1904-1917
William Pepper	1853-1858
William Pepper (2d)	1886-1898
Charles Platt	1886-1902
Samuel Powel	1858-1885
Eli K. Price	1917
Jacob Randolph	1840-1841, 1842-1846
William Rawle	1841-1845, 1846-1848
William Brooke Rawle	1906-1911
William Henry Rawle	1887-1888

34 THE ROLL OF THE WISTAR PARTY

Samuel Rea	1914
Benjamin W. Richards	1839-1851
Moncure Robinson	1836-1840, 1844-1886
Fairman Rogers	1886-1888
Robert E. Rogers	1856-1860
Joseph G. Rosengarten	1899
William Sellers	1886-1897
John Sergeant	1824-1826
George Sharswood	1859-1866
Wharton Sinkler	1902-1910
Alfred Stillé	1856-1865
William Strickland	1829-1840
William Tilghman	1818-1827
Charlemagne Tower	1896-1897, 1909
James Tyson	1906-1916
Job R. Tyson	1836-1858
John J. Vander Kemp	1840-1850, 1851-1856
John Vaughan	1818-1841
Roberts Vaux	1828-1830
Henry Vethake	1844-1850
Tobias Wagner	1850-1856
Robert Walsh	1818-1835
Thomas U. Walter	1840-1841
John Price Wetherill	1828-1853

George M. Wharton	1854-1859
Thomas I. Wharton	1830-1856
Henry J. Williams	1844-1855
James C. Wilson	1904
Joseph M. Wilson	1898-1902
Isaac J. Wistar	1887-1905
Caspar Wister	1886-1889
George B. Wood	1836-1879
Stuart Wood	1902-1914

HONORARY MEMBERS

Peter S. Du Ponceau	1842-1844
Nathaniel Chapman	1849-1853
Robert M. Patterson	1853-1854
Moncure Robinson	1886-1891
Craig Biddle	1908-1910

OFFICERS

DEAN

John Vaughan	1818-1841
Isaac Lea	1842-1852, 1854-1886
*J. J. Vander Kemp	1852-1853
*J. R. Tyson	1853-1854
Henry Charles Lea	1886-1909
Samuel Dickson	1909-1915
I. Minis Hays	1915

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Francis W. Lewis	1887-1902
Thomas McKean	1887-1897
William Pepper	1887-1898
Charles Platt	1898-1902
Samuel Dickson	1898-1909
I. Minis Hays	1902-1915
Isaac J. Wistar	1902-1905
Israel Wistar Morris	1905-1910
Joseph G. Rosengarten	1909
William Brooke Rawle	1910-1911
Hampton L. Carson	1911
Charlemagne Tower	1915

* In the absence in Europe of Mr. Isaac Lea.

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